



THE
JEWISH
GAILY

FORWARD

MAY 1984

NISAN / IYAR 5744

Congregational Meeting and Elections — May 6

THE SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held at the synagogue Sunday afternoon May 6, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m..

The major agenda item is the election of new officers and six Va'ad members. Those elected will begin their terms of office on July 1. This year's slate for officers is Leila Raim, running for President; Don Albert, Vice President; David Stein, Treasurer; and Mark Mendelow, Recorder. Running for the six open Va'ad positions (five two-year terms and one one-year term) are: Leslie Bergson, Alex Ingersoll, Garry Koenigsberg, Cheryl Orvis, Jerry Rosenstein, Sharyn Saslafsky and Rob Tat.

Other issues to be discussed are the Dedication Weekend (exciting!), our search for a rabbi (getting closer!), plans for the synagogue building, and the state of the Congregation's finances (look, we're not rich, but...).

All year long we hear opinions. Oy, do we hear opinions! But twice a year we hear all the opinions at once. So bring yours on the 6th.

And, as usual, a tastefully appointed oneg will be served following the meeting, giving all of us a chance to schmooze and say mazel tov (!) to the new officers.

CSZ Celebrates Shavuot

IT IS A JEWISH TRADITION that on Shavuot, the festival of the giving of the Torah, we study Torah far into the night.

In long standing Sha'ar Zahav tradition, we will hold our second annual Tikkun Shavuot on Tuesday, June 5th, at the synagogue at 7:30 p.m. There will be a short evening service, followed by a dairy potluck, followed by study sessions and discussions. Those of us who attended the Tikkun Shavuot last year learned a lot and had a great time. The potluck is dairy, because dairy foods are traditional for Shavuot. If you want to know why, so ask Aunt Yente. If you have any other questions about the Tikkun Shavuot, please call Leslie at 863-5081.

Join Our Dedication Celebration

AFTER MONTHS OF ANTICIPATION and preparation, Sha'ar Zahav's Dedication Weekend will finally take place this month. On the weekend of May 18, 19 and 20, we will be dedicating our building at 220 Danvers at Caselli as a synagogue and will be able to have some fun celebrating that occasion. The entire community is invited to help us celebrate and consecrate our "Home of Our Own."

The weekend will begin with our regular Friday evening Shabbat service. The Oneg to follow will be sponsored in honor of the Building Steering Committee and all those who worked so hard on all aspects of the campaign. Saturday morning at 10:30, the Ritual Committee will introduce the Shabbat morning service with a new prayerbook. There will be an Oneg following services.

The weekend excitement will build as Saturday evening arrives and it's party time. Members and their guests are invited to a celebration party to be held at Olive Oil's on Pier 50. There will be live music by Frantix, catered food and a no-host bar, all for a \$5.00/person donation at the door. Members will be receiving more specific information on this event in the mail.

Finally, the big day will arrive on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. The program will include music, presentations and ritual activities, including placement of the external mezuzah and a torah procession. Our Congregation will be honored with proclamations and resolutions presented by Congresswoman Sala Burton, Senator Milton Marks and others. Also, Rabbi Morris Hershman, Regional Director of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, will be there to share in the joy of this day.

The Commemorations Committee has been working diligently for the past few months, preparing a booklet commemorating this weekend and several dedicatory plaques to be placed in the building and unveiled on Sunday. In preparation for the booklet and plaques, the 1,100 persons who contributed to our "Home of Our Own" Campaign were contacted (and invited to our celebration).

Following the consecration of our synagogue, the building will be open for guests and refreshments will be served. Please plan on joining us for this very special day in the history of Sha'ar Zahav.

Mike's Column

IF YOU LIVE IN "THE CITY," you'll read this before dedication weekend. And if you live in the suburbs, or (perish the thought) outside the Bay Area, you may read it a week or so after.

In any case, for Sha'ar Zahav it will be (or was) a time to remember, and a time to be profoundly grateful, to the God who inspired us, and to the men and women of strength and vision who created our Congregation and who brought us to this happy moment in its history.

What is there to say, except thank you!

With the celebration and all, we've been much in the papers these past few weeks. In addition, there were a couple of good stories about us — and about gay and lesbian Jews in other places — in early April. If you go to San Francisco State, you read about the Congregation in the *Phoenix*. And if you were in New York (or have a friend who sends you clippings), you saw the piece in the March 9th *Jewish Week* of Queens.

A number of rabbis and other Jewish leaders were quoted in both papers. Some, like Albert Vorspan, Vice President of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, spoke of acceptance, of treating gay people with compassion, of reaching out.

A few sourpusses said we should go bite nails.

Most of the comments were somewhere in between. In the *Jewish Week* article entitled "Gay and Jewish," Wolfe

The Jewish Gaily *Forward* is published 12 times annually by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given, credit would be appreciated.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due on the 10th of the month. It should be sent to the Synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Alex Ingersoll, Irene Ogus and Leila Raim (editorial and production), Allan Berenstein, Bob Goldware, Frank Hyman, David Shaber, Barry Siegel, Sam Thal and Alan Schrager (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by Cole Valley Graphics and printed by Lou Greene.

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with a frequency discount of 10% for six or more issues. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads (for members only) are \$5.00 for up to 20 words, plus \$1.00 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste. For more information on advertising rates and charges, call the Synagogue Office at 861-6932.

Kelman, a rabbi and an official of the Conservative Rabbinical Assembly, said the following: "I can't give sanction because of the nature of homosexuality and Jewish tradition, yet I welcome them as individuals to pray with us — they are creative people who should be part of the Jewish Community."

Orthodox Rabbi Isaac Trainun comments, "I don't know any orthodox rabbi who would discriminate against lesbians and gays as individuals." (Oh? Do you know any yeshiva students who've "come out" before ordination lately?)

And Rabbi Benjamin Warfish, executive director of the Orthodox Rabbinical Council of America: "Certainly the rabbi should work with him (sic) and help him improve his situation. It's the problem of any person who violates Jewish law publicly. He is not a proper person."

Not everyone is so judgmental. The rabbi of the Lincoln Square Synagogue, modern orthodox, wrote, "If a homosexual comes to me I would tell him he can live as a Jew like everyone else. I'm not sure how God would describe homosexuality. I know some think it is an abomination, but I'm not sure we should second guess God." Right.

Reading all of this, I said to myself, "Self, just what is it we want from these people anyway?" Do we want acceptance? Compassion? Understanding? Tolerance? Do we want them to give up their deeply felt beliefs and theological positions?

I can't speak for anyone but myself, but this is what I want:

I want to be treated with dignity and respect, when I've earned it; and with fairness without having to earn it.

I want my homosexuality to be important in the bedroom — and nowhere else.

I want no one to ascribe to me a "creativity" that isn't there. (Not that anyone who had seen my living room would! If you have to be a talented decorator to be gay, I'll have to turn in my gay card!)

Do I want compassion? Sure, when I'm in pain. But *being* gay has never caused me pain — only the reaction of others to it.

Do I want to be understood, accepted, reached-out-to? Is there any human being who doesn't want those things?

If your theological position on homosexuality is different from mine, you're entitled to that. I have no right to demand or expect that you will change your mind. But please don't expect me to confirm the way I live and love to the way you think and believe.

I guess, when you get right down to it, I want the same things as a gay man that I want as a Jew. And the same things I'd want if I were an Irish Catholic, or black, or a member of any other group that's had to fight for acceptance and for the right to live in peace.

What we're really talking about here is a good healthy pride in who we are and what we've achieved. Our synagogue building is one visible symbol of our accomplishment, and we're proud of it — justifiably so. Let's also be proud of what we've done on behalf of Israel, of the Jews of Ethiopia and the Soviet Union, and the Tenderloin. Sure we have our own concerns and agendas, but we

(continued on page 6)

Israeli Independence Day

THE ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION will take place on Sunday afternoon, May 13, at Sigmund Stern Grove, 19th and Sloat Avenues, San Francisco. Always a festive occasion, this year's event promises to be no different. This day is a wonderful opportunity to express your Jewish pride, and be among thousands of other Jews who have come together to celebrate their Judaism, and the birth of the Israeli nation.

Along with a program that includes music, dancing and speeches from local dignitaries, there will be numerous organizations represented at the event. Congregation Sha'ar Zahav will be one of those organizations, and we will have a booth set up at the fair. This year, we will be selling T-shirts for fundraising purposes, and we will also have our membership materials on hand for those who are interested. Other booths will be selling items ranging from Jewish memorabilia to arts and crafts. Food and drink will be sold at Stern Grove, and you are encouraged to bring a blanket and make a picnic out of the day. Be sure to mark your calendar for this event, as it always proves to be a wonderful day. Hope to see all of you there. (Don't forget to wear your Sha'ar Zahav T-shirts!)

Rabbi Search Report

FOLLOWING A PRELIMINARY REVIEW of some 18 applicants, the Rabbi Search Committee narrowed the field of candidates recently and looks ahead to a first interview in early May.

The first applicant to be brought to San Francisco will meet with the Committee on Thursday, May 10. On Friday, May 11, members of the Congregation will be able to visit informally with the candidate during the Oneg Shabbat following services.

The Rabbi Search Committee recently placed position available notices in 12 newspapers throughout the country and Canada. A number of resumes have been received as a result of those advertisements, and the Committee is carefully screening the applications received.

Applications received up to now have represented the broadest range of backgrounds, ages, interests, and geographical locations. Men and women, younger and older, Reform and Orthodox candidates have expressed interest in the position, largely due to the media campaign. The Committee is not operating with a particular deadline for hiring, and so plans to continue its work for as long as it takes to find the best rabbi to serve the needs of Sha'ar Zahav.

Yom Atzma'ut in East Bay

The community-wide Israel Independence Day Concert will be held in the East Bay on Sunday, May 6, 1984 at 7 p.m. at the Berkeley Community Theatre. This year's entertainers will be the internationally acclaimed Israeli troupe *Sharti Lach Artzi*. For further information, contact the Jewish Community Relations Council at 533-7462.

Membership Picnic

SAVE SATURDAY, JUNE 3, on your calendars for the CSZ Membership Picnic. The Membership Committee is sponsoring this event for old members, new members, potential members, friends, and guests. It will take place at the Pioneer Log Cabin Picnic Area in Golden Gate Park beginning at 11:00 a.m. and will feature food, games, and, God willing, outstanding weather. Watch for a future flyer with directions and other details. Everyone is encouraged to come and bring at least one potential new member! If you would like further information, or would like to help plan the picnic, contact Allan Berenstein at 550-7355 or any member of the Membership Committee.

Va'ad Report

THE APRIL VA'AD MEETING was held on Tuesday evening April 10 at the synagogue. President Mike Rankin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Major topics of discussion included the building renovation and the upcoming dedication weekend activities.

As most of you have already seen, the interior painting of the sanctuary and oneg rooms have been completed. Exterior painting is scheduled to begin on April 11 and should be completed in late May, in time for our dedication weekend. The Va'ad approved the installation of emergency floodlights/exit signs for the interior of the building, in order to insure safety in case of a power failure or other emergency.

Dedication weekend plans are set, with Congresswoman Sala Burton, State Senator Milton Marks, and Supervisor Carol Ruth Silver scheduled to appear on Sunday afternoon. Services will be held on Friday evening and Saturday morning, and a party will be held on Saturday evening for the members of the Congregation at Olive Oil's. As part of the dedication ceremonies on Sunday, two plaques will be unveiled, one honoring contributors to the building campaign, and the other a formal building dedication plaque. In addition, several smaller plaques will be installed at various locations throughout the building, in recognition of the major contributors to our building campaign. We are all looking forward to a very exciting weekend in the history of our congregation, and we hope that you will all join us for the festivities.

Three new members were voted into membership this month. Congratulations to them for becoming part of our family. It is wonderful to see our numbers grow.

The Brotherhood and the Women's Chavurah will be coordinating Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day. Stay tuned for further details in the next issue of the *Forward*. Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 24.

We always need volunteers for any of our events, so if you'd like to get more involved, speak to any of the officers, Va'ad members or committee chairs. We'd love to have you work with us!

Until next month....

— Eric Keitel, Recorder

Chanukat Ha-Bayit: Dedication

And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.

— Exodus 25:8

The first sanctuary of the Israelites was the Tabernacle in the wilderness. God gave Moses the instructions for the building on Mount Sinai, and Moses repeated them to the Children of Israel. The description of its construction occupies the last fifteen chapters of the book of Exodus. It was predecessor to the temple in Jerusalem, built by King Solomon, which stood for 400 years, and was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 B.C.E.

God, I love the habitation of Your house, the place where Your glory dwells.

— Psalms 26:8

Following the destruction of the Temple, the Jews were driven into exile in Babylon, and were faced with a theological dilemma. If God inhabited the temple in Jerusalem, did that mean that because they were not in Jerusalem, they were no longer Jews? No, they concluded, the fact that they were still Jews meant that God was universal and omnipresent, and could be worshipped wherever they were. This revolution in concept brought about a new practice, and the institution of the synagogue was born.

I will walk within my house in the integrity of my heart.

— Psalms 101:3

The exiles returned from Babylon and rebuilt the Temple, but the synagogue movement continued to grow. Some Jews stayed in Babylon and worshipped in their synagogues. Some came back to the land, and built synagogues. After the destruction of the second Temple in 70 C.E., the Jews scattered all over the world. Had the tem-

ple in Jerusalem been the only focus of the religion and the nation, Judaism would now be an extinct ancient civilization. It was the synagogues that kept Judaism alive.

May this synagogue be, for all who enter, the doorway to a richer and more meaningful life.

— from Likrat Shabbat

Synagogues come in all sizes and shapes. Some are Byzantine, some are Colonial, and some are startlingly modern. Some are in former churches, or storefronts, or private houses. In the Brooklyn neighborhood where I grew up, a congregation purchased a former movie theatre, occasioning jokes like 'they're showing a double feature — mincha and maariv.' The diversity of synagogues is true to the original concept: that God can be worshipped anywhere that a congregation gathers to pray. Our love of God, and caring for our community makes us want to beautify the place where we meet, each in our own way.

Except that Adonai builds the house, the builders labor in vain.

— Psalms 127:2

We will soon hold a Chanukat ha-bayit, a consecration service, for our new synagogue building. There are no special words we will say on that day that will change the nature of the space from what it was before to something new. This is a place where we have worshipped for a year. Our ark stands there, the eternal light burns over it and our Torah rests inside. In this place, our congregants have prayed countless prayers to God. The dedication of the building is only a celebration and a proud acknowledgment of the consecration that has already taken place in our souls.

— Leslie Bergson

Chair, Ritual Committee

Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past month by the following contributors:

For the General Fund —

Sam Thal, in memory of Glen Friedman
Susan Gordon, in memory of her mother, Faye Barkiss
Edward Leugoud
Ceil M. Rogers
Paula Andrews

For the General Fund, for a great Purim —

Leila Raim
Sharyn Saslafsky
David Shaber
Cheryl Orvis
Jon Funk

For the Building Fund (general) —

Russell Discher
James Dronenburg
Michael Chriesman, in memory of Ed
Lauree Moss
Eleanor Isaacson, in honor of her son Steven B. Isaacson's birthday

For the Building Fund, new pledges —

David Shaber
Terry Rothschild
Bob Goldware
Michael Chriesman
Bob Mackey

For the Building Fund, in memory of Ted Mendonca —

Eve Goldman
Paul Cohen
David Stein & Alex Ingersoll

For the Phooey on AIDS Fund —

Michael Chriesman, in memory of an old friend
Richard Ditewig

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ניסן - אייר

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		29 Nisan 1	30 2 Rosh Chodesh I	1 Iyar 3 Rosh Chodesh II Building Comm. 6:30pm	2 4 Candidates Night	3 5
4 6 Congregational Meeting & Elections	5 7	6 8	7 9	8 10 Newsletter Deadline	9 11	10 12
11 13 Yom Atzma'ut Stern Grove	12 14 Va'ad Meeting 6:30pm	13 15	14 16	15 17	16 18	17 19 Party at Olive Oil's
18 20 Lag B'Omer Dedication Ceremony, 1:30pm	19 21 Yom Atzma'ut	20 22	21 23	22 24 Social Action Comm. 7pm Newsletter Comm. 648-4818	23 25	24 26
25 27	26 28	27 29 East Bay Lunch Group 921-7846	28 30	29 31 Ritual Co.6:30pm 631 O'Farrell, #1705 Newsletter Mailing 648-4818		

Ritual Calendar — May

Friday May 4	Parshah: Emor, Lev. 21:1-24:23 Haftarah: Ezekiel 44:15-31 Terry Rothchild, Services
Friday May 11	Parshah: Be-Har, Lev. 25:1-26:2 Haftarah: Jeremiah 32:6-27 Daniel Chesir, Services
Friday May 18	Parshah: Be-Hukkotai, Lev. 26:3-27:34 Haftarah: Jeremiah 16:19-17:14 Ritual Committee and Friends, Services
Saturday May 19	Shabbat Morning Services for Dedication Weekend, 10:30 a.m. Ritual Committee and Friends, Services
Friday May 25	Parshah: Be-Midbar, Num. 1:1-4:40 Haftarah: Hosea 1:1-22 Steve Greenberg, Services

Services are held every Friday night at 8:15 at our new home, located at 220 Danvers at Caselli in San Francisco.

Ritual Preview — June

Friday June 1	Parshah: Naso, Num. 4:21-7:89 Haftarah: Judges 13:2-25 Leslie Bergson and Marc Lipshutz, Services
Tuesday June 5	Tikkun Shavuot , 7:30 p.m. Ritual Committee and Friends
Friday June 8	Parshah: Be-Ha'alotkha, Num. 8:1-12:16 Haftarah: Zechariah 2:14-4:7 Garry Koenigsberg, Services Shavuot will be observed this evening, and a Yizkor service will be held.

Upcoming Dates

Sunday, June 3 — **Membership Picnic**, 11 a.m., Golden Gate Park, Pioneer Log Cabin Picnic Area
Tuesday, June 5 — **Tikkun Shavuot**, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, June 11 — **Va'ad Meeting**, 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, June 24 — **Gay and Lesbian Freedom Day Parade**

So Ask Aunt Yente

Dear Aunt Yente,

Why does the synagogue pass the pushke at services? Isn't it wrong to handle money on Shabbat?

Wondering in Wawona

Dear Wondering,

This bothered Aunt Yente also when she first came to Sha'ar Zahav. Then she said, Yente, you're not supposed to be carrying money on Shabbat. If you can have it in your pocket, why shouldn't the shul ask for it? If nothing else, it will keep you from the sin of carrying the money home after services.

Still, your Aunt Yente, like most people, likes to pretend at synagogue that she's a little more religious than she really is. When we pass the pushke, we all admit we're carrying money. So, you could ask, isn't this an unnecessary *shande*?

But the answer is no. What is wrong with money on Shabbat is not that it's dirty or nasty; what's wrong is that it's part of the world of buying and selling, of making a living and acquiring things; the workday world that is the antithesis of Shabbat. Money is the central symbol of this non-Shabbat world, and so is a good thing to avoid on Shabbat.

But listen to your Aunt Yente: the pushke is not part of buying and selling. The pushke, instead, is a symbol of the opposite of buying and selling — *tsedaka*, charity. Whether Sha'ar Zahav should be the only place where you give *tsedaka* is another question, that Aunt Yente will not beat your teapot with now; there are also hungry people, sick people, homeless people, all of whom we're commanded to help. You can also maybe see that *tsedaka* is done in many ways, not all with money.

When all this is finished, you still have to agree that the pushke is an easy, concrete opportunity for the mitzvah of *tsedaka* every week. God forbid Aunt Yente or anyone else should look over people's shoulders to check up on them; if you can't afford to give, if you don't want to — so you'll give some other time. (Sha'ar Zahav is nothing if not persistent.) What's most important to Aunt Yente is that you're

with her at services. But anyone claiming religious scruples against the pushke, Aunt Yente is going to follow to the Metro after services and warn the bartender that they can't pay for that Perrier.

Aunt Yente

Dear Aunt Yente

I can't believe people actually write you for advice. I certainly wouldn't. Do you write all the letters in your column?

Suspicious in Salinas

Dear Suspicious,

Aunt Yente, of course, does not make up questions for her column. There is a strong temptation to do so, but in the words of a famous tape recording, "that would be wrong, that's for sure." No, Aunt Yente doesn't cheat. Instead, she goes around after midnight, breaking into the houses of people who don't regularly attend Shabbat services, and hurls week-old matzoh balls at them. Then she shrieks, "What don't you know? Tell me what you don't know!" This usually confuses the people involved so severely that they can't say anything helpful, but it certainly releases Aunt Yente's frustration at finding nothing in her mailbox.

If you would like to rescue Aunt Yente from the temptation to engage in such unladylike tactics, and at the same time insure against an attack of her super-dense matzoh balls (now under study by the U.S. military) then take a minute to write her and ask her something. You'll sleep better for it.

Aunt Yente

Aunt Yente will answer all your questions about Jewish law and ritual matters. Just write to Aunt Yente in care of the *Forward*, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, CA 94114. Only a limited number of questions can be answered in the *Forward*, so if you want a personal answer, please include a stamped self-addressed envelope. All material © 1984 Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our Congregation gained six new members in March and April. A warm welcome to:

Jay Feinstein
Laurent Gasperini
Don Gordon
Ilene Hirsch
Steve Lowinger
Andrea Piazza & Josh

New members are welcomed and honored at Friday night services on the last Friday of the month. By making them feel a part of our family, we can all help to show our new members that they have a valuable place at Sha'ar Zahav.

Mike's Column (continued from page 2)

haven't restricted ourselves to those. Having reclaimed a Jewish heritage we once thought was lost to us, and having created a safe place where we can be joyfully and authentically Jewish and gay, we now look to the wider world, to the mending that needs to be done there. Isn't that what being Jewish is all about?

To those who would patronize us, or accept us grudgingly, we say, "Sorry, friends. We've paid our dues, and we're in the club to stay. If that bothers you, that's your problem, not ours. There are a few specialists who are very good at treating Eddie Murphy's Disease, and if you'd like a referral..."

Or, in the immortal words of Aunt Eller in *Oklahoma* (or was it Aunt Yente), "I ain't saying I'm no better than anyone else. But I'll be danged if I ain't just as good!" Davka.

Shalom,

— Mike

And Esther Says Thanks!

MEGILLAH MADNESS II, our Purim celebration on March 17, was brought to you by nearly a fourth of the Congregation — or so it seems! *Everyone* pitched in to make it a wonderful evening. It all began on an evening long, long ago, when a steering committee was formed: Mike Rankin was there that night, and Mike Lipson, Jonathan G., Joanne Woolf, David Shaber, Leslie Bergson and Bill Ashley-Dobbin were too. Along the way, we were joined by David Stein, Bob Goldware, Alex Ingersoll and David Gass. Various committees planned the service, wrote the script, and organized the booths and the food and the games and the prizes. Thanks to the Rabbi Search Committee for their imported Chassidic rabbi, to the Building Committee for charting our biorhythms, to the Finance Committee for ticket sales, to the Membership Committee for staffing the front desk and to David Shaber and Bob Mackey for focusing on our noses. Thanks also to Mark Mendelow, Eric Keitel, Susan Greenspan and Jon Funk for stepping in and helping with the food, and to Barry Siegal for tending bar for hours and hours. And that night wouldn't have been the same without the work of Garry Koenigsberg, Dan Chesir, Leslie Bergson and the rest of the Megillah Production Company in finally relating the "true" Megillah to us. Listen, the original Esther took care of the whole business with a much smaller group!

From all of us who enjoyed it, to all of you who make it happen — thank you!

World Congress July Meeting

The annual board meeting of the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations will be held in Seattle, Washington during the weekend of July 4-8, 1984. This is the first time that the World Congress is meeting independently from the International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews, which has become a biennial event. Congregation Tikvah Chadashah of Seattle will host this July's meeting, which is expected to draw representatives from most of the World Congress' 19 member organizations.

According to Aaron Cooper, World Congress Executive Director, the board meeting will include a full day program to address issues of concern to gay/lesbian Jewish groups (e.g., increasing membership, preventing leadership burn-out, programming options). Additional efforts will be directed at approving the new organizational structure (and by-laws) which were developed and implemented last year.

Eric Keitel has served as Sha'ar Zahav's board member to the World Congress this past year. Any questions regarding the organization may be directed to him. Individuals interested in attending the Seattle board meeting should contact Susan at the synagogue office by Friday, May 11.

The next International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews will be held in Washington, D.C. during the summer of 1985. More details about that exciting event will be forthcoming following the Seattle meeting.

Ted Mendonca

Zichrono L'vracha — May His Memory Be Blessed

Theodore G. Mendonca, Jr., was born on May 2, 1943, in Honolulu, Hawaii, of a rich genetic mix which included Hawaiian and German Jewish on his mother's side and Portuguese on his father's. He was educated at Punahou School from kindergarten through high school and maintained an intense loyalty to the friends and classmates from that era of his life. Ted came to the mainland to complete his education at the University of Washington and at San Francisco State University. Recently, he completed the first year of law school at Lincoln University.

Ted worked in the travel industry throughout his adult life. He was associated with Pan Am for about 10 years, during which he travelled extensively throughout the world. Later he was affiliated with several travel agencies; and in 1981 he became the first Travel Director and Tour Coordinator for the Commonwealth Club of California, a position which he held until shortly before his death.

Ted was raised in the Episcopal church, but when he was exposed to Judaism through his lover, Richard In-

lander, he became enthralled with the richness of its culture and the intelligent and common-sense approach to all aspects of life which it offered. Ted adopted Judaism as his own and became a member and supporter of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, which in turn offered him comfort and support during his illness.

Ted became ill in July 1983, and died in San Francisco on March 16, 1984. Pursuant to his wishes, his ashes were committed to the sea near Honolulu on March 26. A memorial service, led by Mike Rankin, was held at the Temple on April 7.

Ted is survived by his mother, sister and nephew, by Richard and his sons Adam and Ethan, and by scores of friends in Honolulu and San Francisco.

A permanent memorial to Ted will be purchased with contributions in his memory to the Building Fund, and will be placed in our Home.

Shalom, old friend. May your memory be for a blessing.

May Yahrzeits

- 1 Benjamin Katz, Grandfather of Judah Katz
- 9 (7 Iyar) Herman Kreitzberg, Father of Duff Kreitzberg
- 12 Max Podgur, Father of Hal Podgur
- 17 (15 Iyar) Harry Skolnik, Grandfather of Hal Heller
- 18 Blair Isrow, Cousin of Steven Cronenwalt
- 18 (16 Iyar) Abe Schorr, Father of Cynthia Schorr
- 19 (17 Iyar) Frances Raim, Mother of Leila Raim
- 21 Alfred Richter, Father of Steven Richter
- 21 Marvin Saslafsky, Father of Sharyn Saslafsky
- 26 Ida Parker, Mother of Harold Parker
- 27 Carolyn Drew Morris, Grandmother of Laurie Radovsky
- 30 Mary Thal, Mother of Sam Thal
- 30 Morton Lobos Wilkes, Brother of Shelley Fernandez

Note: Yahrzeits will be read at services on the Friday preceding the Yahrzeit date.

May Birthdays!

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 3 Marion Trentman | 20 Steve Richter |
| 6 Joyce Amburgey | 21 Jerry Rosenstein |
| 6 Aaron Garay Buchbinder | 29 Eric Keitel |
| 17 Ed Gabay | 30 Ron Gelb |
| 18 David Stein | |

Belated Birthday Wishes to:

Peter Abinati
Isabel Fishman
Bob Levy
Rose Stelowitz

Classified Ads

VOICE LESSONS: Learn to relax and have fun while you create the sounds you have always wanted to hear yourself sing. It can be done! Call Jill Rose, 431-3932.

GUITAR LESSONS: Learn to play what you hear around you and inside you. Learn songs, music theory and improvisation — painlessly. All levels. Have fun! I love to teach! Suzanne P. Shanbaum, 261-0791.

PIANO LESSONS: Classical, improvisation and composition. Beginners especially welcomed. Experienced, encouraging teacher. Call Jill Rose, 431-3932.

ATTORNEY

DAVID R. GELLMAN
(415) 621-2966

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45 Franklin St., San Francisco 94102

Reasonable Fees

Weekend & Evening
Appointments

Oneg Sponsors

During the month of March, Friday night Onegs were sponsored by the following generous persons:

- Mar. 2 — David Shaber & friends, in honor of the Oneg Committee
- Mar. 9 — Oneg Committee, in honor of the Congregation
- Mar. 16 — The Va'ad, in honor of the Congregation
- Mar. 23 — Paul Cohen, in memory of his father's yahrzeit; Flowers from Ron Gelb, in honor of his mother's visit
- Mar. 30 — Joanne Woolf and friends, to celebrate her admission to Rabbinical school

All you have to do to sponsor an Oneg is to think of the occasion and contact Larry Cohen at an Oneg or call him at 493-0535 or leave a message at the Synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring an Oneg is \$30-40 (partial sponsorship available) or you can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.



CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV
220 Danvers at Caselli
San Francisco, California 94114
(415) 861-6932

Officers: President, Mike Rankin; Treasurer, David Stein; Recorder, Eric Keitel

Va'ad (Board) Members: Don Albert, Allan Berenstein, Alex Ingersoll, Ron Lezell, Mark Mendelow, Nancy Meyer, Leila Raim, Jerry Rosenstein, Sharyn Saslafsky

Committee Chairs: Bikur Cholim, Rabbi Ben Marcus; Building, David Gellman; Bylaws, David Gass; Education, Joanne Woolf; Elections, Betty Kalis; Finance, Tom Rothgiesser; Membership, Allan Berenstein; Newsletter, Alex Ingersoll; Oneg, Larry Cohen; Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky; Rabbi Search, Aaron Cooper/Leila Raim; Ritual, Leslie Bergson; Social Action, Ron Lezell; Women's Chavurah, Chair shared by committee.

Office Manager: Susan Greenspan (Office is open Wednesday and Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. At other times, please leave a phone message.) **Emergency Number:** At other times the Congregation can be contacted in an emergency situation by calling 864-0475 between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.